

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 117
By Burks

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Harold Willis.

WHEREAS, it was with great sadness and a profound sense of loss that the members of this General Assembly and the citizens of our state learned of the death of Harold Willis; and

WHEREAS, the son of the late John and Maggie Henley Willis, Harold Willis was a resident of Manchester and a Coffee County native; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Willis served with the Army Air Corps during World War II, attaining the rank of staff sergeant; and

WHEREAS, Harold Willis enjoyed an extensive career in business as an agent and officer with the Coffee County Farm Bureau for forty-eight years. He also served for many years on the Board of Directors of Peoples Bank & Trust and was for a time, its chairman; and

WHEREAS, a humane and caring individual, Mr. Willis was active in many worthy concerns, having been a charter member of the Highland Rim Life Underwriters, and receiving a top award from the Tennessee Association of Life Underwriters. He was also president of the Coffee County Historical Society; and

WHEREAS, Harold Willis also served as a member of the Chamber of Commerce and the American Legion; and

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WHEREAS, throughout his life, Harold Willis took pleasure in assisting the 4-H program. He received the Tennessee 4-H Alumni Award and was nominated for the national honor for his alacritous service; and

WHEREAS, in 1991, the Tennessee Legislature saluted Harold Willis for his years of service to community and family by presenting him with an honorary resolution; and

WHEREAS, Harold Willis' interest in politics resulted in his serving as chairman of the area campaign committee for the election of Governor Buford Ellington; and

WHEREAS, Harold Willis evinced his faith as a member of the First United Methodist Church, serving as chairman of the church's administrative board and on numerous committees. For years he was a member and also a teacher in the Johnson Hall Sunday School Class; and

WHEREAS, Harold Willis enjoyed the loving companionship of his wife, Marie Lasater; their children, Steve Willis of Manchester, June Silver of Dunlap and Judy Clem of Eads; his four brothers, Jack, Fred, Kenneth and Bob Willis, all of Hillsboro; five sisters, Cora Roper of Hillsboro, and Jean Sullivan, Christine Deadman, Betty Jagers and Ann Wells, all of Manchester; and five grandchildren, Christopher and Shawn Silver, Alecia and Sonya Willis, and Ashley Clem; and

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that this legislative body pause in its deliberations to remember the exemplary life of this fine citizen; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE-HUNDREDTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, That we honor the memory of Mr. Harold Willis, remembering with admiration his exemplary character and his many selfless contributions to the community.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we express our deepest sympathy to the family and friends of Harold Willis.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.

